

OUTER COURT

COMMUNICATIONS



ISSUE 86-2

OUR LADY OF ENCHANTMENT, BOX 1366, NASHUA, NH 03061

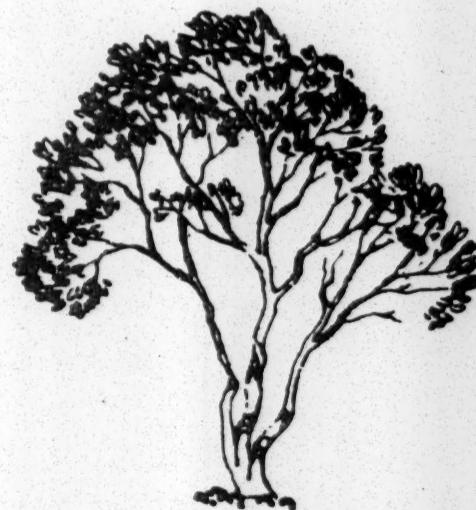
WHOLE NO. 39

An Ancient Ode to Beltane

I felt that the 17th century poet, William Fennor, wrote about this Sabbat much more eloquently than I could. He was one of the many voices that was raised against the restrictions which the church of his time placed on the joyful activities of Beltane.

- Firebear

"When no capricious constables disturb them,
Nor justice of the peace did seek to curb them,
Nor peevish puritan, in railing sort,
Nor over-wise church-warden, spoiled the sport,
Happy the age, and harmless were the days
(For then true love and amity were found),
When every village did a Maypole raise,
And Witson-ales and May-games did abound...
But since the summer poles were overthrown,
All good sports and merriments decayed...
Alas, poor May Poles; what should be the cause
That you were almost banished from the earth?
Who never were rebellious to the laws;
Your greatest crime was harmless, honest mirth..."



THE OLDEST SCIENCE - Astrology

Have you ever looked up the definition of the word "science?" According to my dictionary, it has the following meanings: (1) Knowledge as of facts, phenomena, laws, and proximate causes, gained and verified by exact observation, organized experiment, and correct thinking, (2) An exact and systematic statement or classification of knowledge concerning some subject or group of subjects, (3) Any department of knowledge in which the results of investigation have been systematized in the form of hypotheses and general laws subject to verification.

The foregoing definitions emphasize facts, systematized knowledge, and verification. Perhaps the oldest science to lay claim to these things was the one most recently practiced by such men as Copernicus, Galileo, Kepler, and Newton. Oh yes, you say, they were actually astrologers. Both modern astronomy and psychology are descendants of the ancient science of astrology which reached its highest known pinnacle in Babylon during what we call the Chaldean Renaissance.

It is the vogue in this day to ridicule the old science. Everyone is on the bandwagon to kiss the sacred cow of modern science which chooses to go so far as to lie about the true nature of some of our most revolutionary scientists. "The stars can't influence my life" is a common objection to astrology. This shows the depth with which such people have studied astrology and how well qualified they are to criticize it - because astrology deals with planets rather than stars.

"I read my horoscope in the daily paper for a week and it never made sense in terms of my life," another critic says. He gives himself away as being one of the gullible because he believes that the "horoscope" in the paper is real astrology in action. He doesn't know that such "horoscopes" are based upon only the position of the sun for that day. They are comparable to predicting the course of a horserace when all you know is the name of one horse.

Then there is the religious one who states: "The Bible says we should not practice astrology and that astrologers will be burned in hell." Little does this one realize that the wise men who attended Jesus were astrologers, or that Numbers 2 of the Bible is a set of instructions on how to erect an astrological natal chart. Genesis 49 is loaded with good astrological information, too. After all, much of the Bible came from Babylon because the Hebrews had the knack of collecting all the good information that came their way. Even the Hebrew alphabet was a collected item - compliments of their worst enemies, the Assyrians.

And, let's bring out one more misconception of the unenlightened. Most of us believe that the practice of astrology is the same as fortunetelling. Nothing could be further from the truth. The real astrologer (not the quack) knows that the future is not fixed until it happens. Astrology can and does predict influences, just as you do. You see that your spouse has a bad cold that makes him inattentive, so you say "Drive carefully" as he leaves the house. You are predicting that the cold will influence him to be less attentive to the task of driving the car.

And, if you say that the planets can't influence your life, please realize that planet literally means "wanderer," referring to all bodies that wander in the heavens as we perceive them from earth. This includes the sun and the moon (it was the latter day astronomers who changed the meaning of the word "planet" to suit their own ends). Both the sun and the moon are very obvious examples of planets that do influence you. If you do not believe this, then go out to the edge of the sea at low tide, pitch your tent, and stay there for a day. If you stay in your tent without moving it when the tide comes in, we will all agree that the planets definitely do not influence you.

Beltane is on Wednesday, April 30th...

ARE YOU TRULY PREPARED?



Do you know, specifically:

What herbs to use for Wednesday rituals, ruled by Mercury?

What herbs to use when the sun is in Taurus, ruled by Venus?

What herbs to use when the Moon is in Aquarius?

Where to find Hawthorn, known as the May Bush, and

What parts to use and how to use them in Beltane magick?

What to plant at Beltane, and why?

What and when to plant the correct herbs for the rituals you'll perform throughout the year?

Sure, you could waste your time going through the half-a-dozen or so texts that you may own to find this information - but why not have the knowledge in your mind, ready and at your command?

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■ Magic Mirror - Self Discovery through Dreams

by Stone

Self-discovery is frightening - it lures us out beyond our little world into realities we did not dare conceive - but you cannot live a lie forever and so you must go. It is the greatest adventure we can take, the voyage into ourselves seeking reality. Ordinary life is like walking around in a doll's house among all the furniture we fashion everyday from private fantasy. Fears impel us to limit our vision and power inside the imaginary walls we build for secret reasons, even while we know that infinite reality goes on outside. If you would really know anything about the world, you must penetrate your delusions; you must begin to know yourself. This will be powerfully useful in everything you do. Also, as you become real with yourself, you will begin to really know the gods.

Understanding your dreams is an excellent way to explore yourself, for every night your soul tells you the truth. Please understand what I mean. People in our crazy world today have lost the feeling that they even have a soul, but it is still there. It is the so-called "subconscious" mind within you. It is aware every moment, but it thinks in visions and emotions instead of words; it has knowledge greater than words can embody. It understands all of us very well. It is the part of you that is not limited by even your dearest pretensions. In sleep, the willful, limited part of the mind relaxes its grip and our superconscious begins to spin enthralling stories.

Dreams may speak of various things. Clairvoyant visions of the world outside may come to light; an artist or scientist may sleep upon some nagging problem and find inspired answers; we may even fly on "astral" journeys either to physical places or to distant realms of symbolic truth. But the thing which you may find most important right now - the fact of greatest value when far-reaching choices face you - is that your soul knows and speaks about you.

We weave our dreams not of words but of emotions and images drawn from individual and universal memory. This is the language of the soul. Because of this, your limited, waking mind must tease out their meaning by tracing down those threads of memory and feeling, seeing where they lead. You will find them leading to some valuable truth that your waking thoughts ignore, some truth that is important today.

Since Yule, I have been sleeping with a sachet of mugwort herb under my pillow, to aid the vividness of my dreams, and it has worked quite well. I dreamed of my father, one night recently, although it was not really him. I recognized the person in this dream as the imaginary version of my father that I had created as a little child, to fill a role in my world at that time. (It was my image of what a man should be.) This mistaken image burdened me for years. Only as an adult did I come to know my father for real and gain him as a friend. As I realized that we choose our own ideals, the false image began to slowly fade from my life.

Yet, in the dream, here he was again in full form - masterful, stoic, cool, unhappy, and as remotely stern as Zeus. In the dream, we met while he was traveling; we spoke awhile and I watched him closely. Surfacing from sleep, at a moment when the dream was still clear (but normal will was once more in control) I knew the dream was important and recounted the story's details into conscious memory. I pondered it the next morning. Why was this important now? What was my soul showing me that I did not want to see? I sat and thought about connected events: after awhile things "clicked." There is a certain person now with whom my relationship is profoundly changing, and I had recently been acting towards them as that image long ago taught me to act. I was afraid my life's security might be lost and I was taking refuge in that old, false image of what a man should be. I consciously decided that morning that future happiness is worth whatever risk, and since that morning I have been open and honest towards that person (even though the fear is still at hand!). Here was a valuable lesson indeed, taught at a critical time. My soul held up a magic mirror and I looked and learned.

That experience of mine - like experiences you will have if you use your dreams - shows that dreams can help us understand our outward egos, the ways we act, and the ideas we secretly believe. It shows that these lessons can be immediately useful. But, dreaming consciously like this will also help you know that you are a soul, and that is a more abiding wonder.

I must use poetic words to describe this. It is as though I wander wide-eyed through the depths of night, led on by some beloved guide, my Lady Soul, led by hidden paths through some luxuriant ancient forest, a glowing divine realm. This awakens awareness of symbolic truth standing behind all other truths. It awakens the true inner me, the soul, who slumbers restlessly in daylight hours and dream the ego me.

We all awake sometimes with a great, glowing certainty that we have understood the world. Such dreams may be so difficult to reconstruct that we dismiss them as illusion. I had a moment of such clarity in a recent night. I was fully aware in that moment that I was the one who told the dream. I was my soul and I was working earnestly. Off leftward was a kind of living mask, a face with wide eyes and fascinated smile, which I was hypnotizing with a show. Below me was a limitless bright/dark space of familiar living things and I felt how limited my language had to be to scale things down for the hypnotized creature to be able to see. I felt that I must hurry too, and felt unease that I would inhabit that creature once again with the end of sleep. This was one moment in a dream, but it was true. When I kneel at the altar with murmurs and chants, it is the being whom I was then who speaks my messages out loud among the gods.



CRAFT PUBLICATIONS

CIRCLE NETWORK NEWS: Quarterly newspaper, Wiccan/Pagan articles and news. \$3/sample, \$9/year. Circle, PO Box 219, Mt. Horeb, WI 53572

COUNCIL OF THE MAGICKAL ARTS: Quarterly journal, Wiccan/Pagan related. \$7/year. Council of the Magickal Arts, 5920 Bissonnet 114, Houston, TX 77081

HARVEST: Published at Sabbats; Neo-Pagan journal, Wiccan/Pagan articles, news and networking. \$@/sample, \$10/yearly. Harvest, PO Box 228, S. Framingham, MA 01701

OF A LIKE MIND: Quarterly newspaper, published by and for women, also networking membership. \$2.50/sample, \$10/yearly. Of A Like Mind, PO Box 6021, Madison, WI 53716

PAGANA: Sabbats, Pagan/Wicca/Occult, a special interest group of Mensa. \$2/sample, \$12/year(6 issues). Zephyr Starwater, PO Box 9494, San Jose, CA 95157

PAGAN PARENTS LEAGUE NEWSLETTER: For Pagan parents. PO Box 423-P, Bay Shore, NY 11706

PAGAN UNITY NEWS: Quarterly networking publication for the Wiccan/Pagan community. \$2/sample, \$7/yearly. Northern Way Inc., 6030 W. Roosevelt Rd., Oak Park, IL 60304

THUNDERBOW: Monthly newsletter with a good individual viewpoint. \$6/yearly. Church of the Seven Arrows, 4385 Hoyt St. - #201, Wheatridge, CO 80033

MAGICKAL UNICORN MESSENGER: Quarterly publication of the Temple of Wicca. Articles, poems, festival news. \$7/yearly. Temple of Wicca, PO Box 1302, Findlay, OH 45839

THE UNICORN: Published at Sabbats, newsletter format. \$10/yearly. The Rowan Tree, Box 8814, Minneapolis, MN 55408 (Also the location of The Rowan Tree Herb Shop)



EVENTS



May & June

Wise Woman Center in Saugerties, NY, is holding one-day workshops on herbal medicine and spirit healing; \$35-50, sliding scale fee, w/work exchange or barter available. May 23-Magical Plants, May 24-Herbal Medicine, May 25-Talking with Plants, June 14-Summer Pest 1st Aid, June 15-Herbal Medicine Chest. For information, contact: Susan S. Weed, P.O.Box 64, Woodstock, NY 12498 (914) 246-8081

August 7-10

10th Annual Pan Pagan Festival. Adults/\$30, children/\$10, children under 6/free. Saturday feast & ritual only/\$20. Contact: Midwest Pagan Council, Temporary Registration Committee, 5088 Roosevelt Place, Gary, IN 46408 (219) 980-0944 (No collect calls, please.)

August 29-Sept. 1

Covenant of the Goddess (COG) MerryMeet Festival, near Kalamazoo Michigan (Circle Pines). To get brochure, or for program participant info, contact the festival publicity committee, c/o Our Lady of the Woods, P.O. Box 176, Blue Mounds, WI 53517

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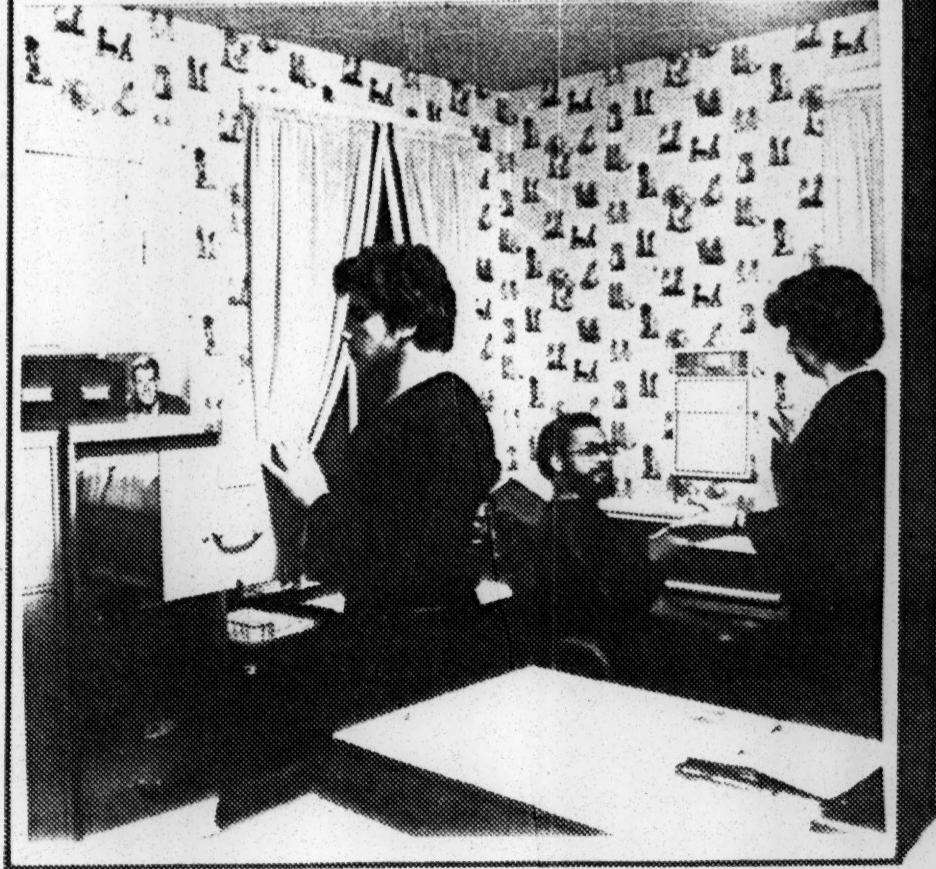
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**Bury my heart with my bones
And cover my bones with standing stones
That wait
And watch for signs
Coming from the east.
Let my life's faded and unmarked pages
Turn in the wind of eternal ages
Yet, in the end,
Let my fate lie with the rising sun.
Let my ears resist the jaded story
Of the One That Comes In
Shining Glory
With clouds of fire
And swords of steel.
Let my heart melt in the ground
And feel the pulse
Of changing times
That never change.
Let the coolness of my mind
Escape in air
And let my lonely soul
Rise with the moon, in air
Of spirits -
Let my spirits roam with them unfettered
By the ties that bind me to the earth
But let my heart stay here
Like bits of broken clay
From the ancient past,
Buried deep and rooted fast
In this world
That I call home.
Let me ignore the sirens' trumpets
That blow the end-of-life song
Let this magic-seeking heart be wrong again
And stand for judgement
In the Spring
When the robins
Start to sing
Blessed Be**

- John A. Cabot

Morning Aires

I see Her smile drift through the misted light
in the early sky -
as a cool smell of air surrounds me
with its hint of water
somewhere past the trees
that love to crowd around me.

She smiles, gingerly,
The streaks of pale colors that
are the glints in Her eyes.

A toad hops across in the still long
shadows, to find more permanent
Shelter before the brightness comes.

She laughs silently;
And a ray or two begins to glow;
clouds drift along Her cheeks.

I lean forward where I sit,
Hoping I might see a sand lizard
scurry near the trees
as I peer carefully at the
quickly fading shadows -
And if not today,
perhaps tomorrow.

She laughs merrily with golden calls -
For Her love ascends
and the air grows warmer
with a smell of greenery and dirt.

I shift a time or two,
then get up to walk as
the trees seem to almost follow -

I smile up at Her;
but Her eyes are now mirrors
wherein one can only see
the Sun.

You have been given the basic building blocks for your success or your failure. The raw materials for the creation of what you wish are here; only you can assemble them.

There is no use in going to the Gods, no use in asking assistance with your life. First, you must attain a measure of balance and success in order to merit such attention. If you cannot reach a point where you are ready to advance, no others will advance you. An individual who strongly desires to succeed, but does not yet have the capacity to, can only be a hopeless dreamer, or worse; a pawn to be influenced by others. Such a one is led about as is a donkey by a carrot on a stick.

Remember! You have been given all the basic tools, and many difficulties to surmount, as well. You must survive, and flourish, before your dreams will become reality.

Many people fail in their attempt to achieve their personal concept of success. Much simpler to settle for something 'not too bad' than to work at winning.

Success is an easy thing to plan, but a difficult thing to carry out. Making a logical plan as to how you will succeed towards any goal is essential. The utmost resolve is needed to keep at it; strength is needed to proceed even (no, especially!) when your goals seem very far away.

Some goals are unobtainable. Yours do not have to be. Your environment already holds what you need. Your task is to know what you really want and to work towards it, using what you are given, while maintaining progress and balance in spite of the problems you encounter. Above all, know that you CAN succeed.



Of a Like Mind

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Have the Burning Times Come Full Circle?

They have spent three years of dedication, worry, hard work, and struggle to have their group recognized as a legitimate, non-traditional alternative religious group. They published, through bartering and contributions, their own newsletter, the Spirit Within News. They are the Coven of Dawn, and they are the only spiritual solace available to certain incarcerated pagans in Maine. And they are under attack.

Prison officials are changing their stance and claiming that Wicca is not a true religion. They say that the coven is a bad influence on other inmates. Coven of Dawn is going through the same abuse and oppression that Wicca has suffered from other religious groups for thousands of years...and now they need our help.

If there is truly a pagan community, in the fantasy and fashion of being a support for each other during all of the burning times, then we must act as a community. This coven is getting outside legal representation to protect their beliefs, and may be forced to stop the newsletter. If you care to put a stop to the attitudes and actions of the prison administration, please send letters to the following:

Donald Allen, Commissioner of Corrections, State House Station 111, Augusta, ME, 04333; and James E. Tierney, Department of the Attorney General, State House Station 6, Augusta, ME, 04333 (Attn: David J. Perkins). Please send copies of the letters to Dave Chamberlain, P.O. Box A B-6, Thomaston, ME 04861.

Tree by Kathi Costello

To fly once more
alone and free
That is all I
ask of thee.

To glide amidst the
mighty oak
To once more feel
the glorious coat
Of sunshine basking down
on all;

To hear the warriors'
mighty call
To know once more
the feelings of
Peace and Joy,
Warmth and Love:

That is all I
ask of thee,
So help me set
my spirit free.



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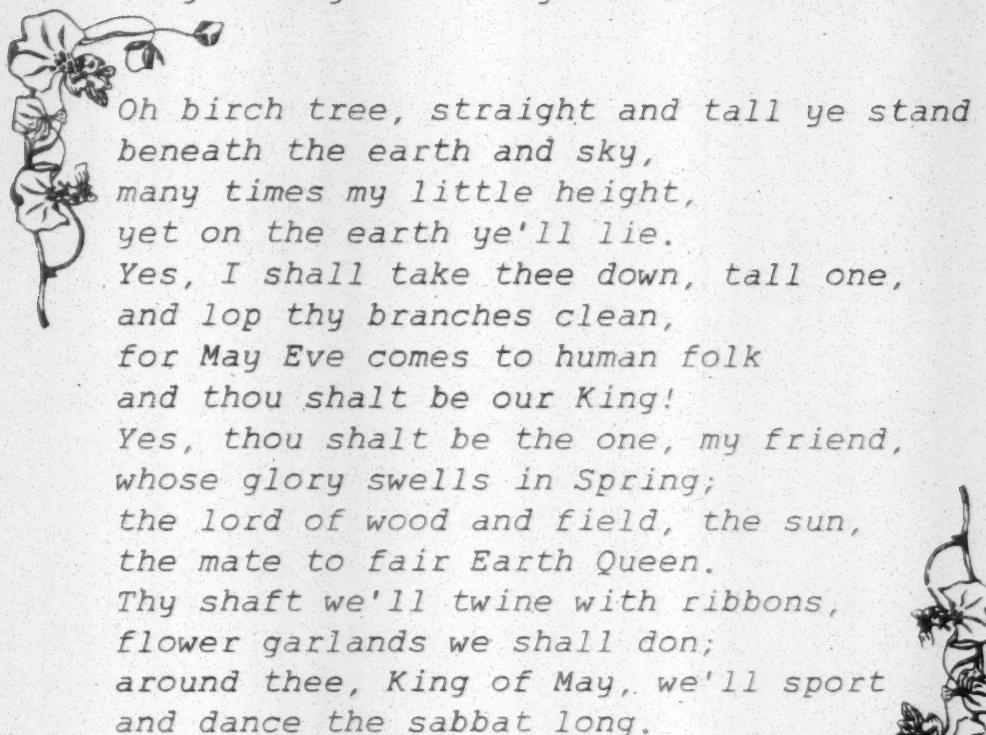
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King of May

by Stone



Oh birch tree, straight and tall ye stand
beneath the earth and sky,
many times my little height,
yet on the earth ye'll lie.
Yes, I shall take thee down, tall one,
and lop thy branches clean,
for May Eve comes to human folk
and thou shalt be our King!
Yes, thou shalt be the one, my friend,
whose glory swells in Spring;
the lord of wood and field, the sun,
the mate to fair Earth Queen.
Thy shaft we'll twine with ribbons,
flower garlands we shall don;
around thee, King of May, we'll sport
and dance the sabbat long.



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